Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of purifying recombinant human erythropoietin from cell culture supernatants comprising ~~a combination of~~ the following steps in order:

(a) differential saline precipitation;

(b) hydrophobic interaction chromatography;

(c) concentration and diafiltration;

(d) anionic exchange chromatography;

(e) cationic exchange chromatography;

(f) concentration and diafiltration; and

(g) molecular exclusion chromatography.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented)The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises adding ammonium sulfate to said culture supernatant, followed by centrifugation.

5. (previously presented)The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises using a hydrophobic interaction matrix.

6. (previously presented)The method of claim 5, wherein said hydrophobic interaction matrix is Phenyl Sepharose 6 Fast Flow.

7. (previously presented)The method of claim 1, wherein step (d) comprises using an anionic exchange matrix.

8. (previously presented)The method of claim 7, wherein said anionic exchange matrix is Q-Sepharose Fast Flow.

9. (previously presented)The method of claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises using a cationic exchange matrix.

10. (previously presented)The method of claim 9, wherein said cationic exchange matrix is SP-Sepharose Fast Flow.

11. (previously presented)The method of claim 1, wherein step (g) comprises using a molecular exclusion matrix.

12. (previously presented)The method of claim 11, wherein said molecular exclusion matrix is Sephacryl S-200 HP.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (new) A method of purifying recombinant human erythropoietin from cell culture supernatants comprising the following steps in order:

(a) differential saline precipitation;

(b) concentration and diafiltration;

(c) anionic exchange chromatography;

(d) cationic exchange chromatography;

(e) hydrophobic interaction chromatography;

(f) concentration and diafiltration; and

(g) molecular exclusion chromatography.

18. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein step (a) comprises adding ammonium sulfate to said culture supernatant, followed by centrifugation.

19. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein step (c) comprises using an anionic exchange matrix.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said anionic exchange matrix is Q-Sepharose Fast Flow.

21. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein step (d) comprises using a cationic exchange matrix.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein said cationic exchange matrix is SP-Sepharose Fast Flow.

23. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein step (e) comprises using a hydrophobic interaction matrix.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said hydrophobic interaction matrix is Phenyl Sepharose 6 Fast Flow.

25. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein step (g) comprises using a molecular exclusion matrix.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein said molecular exclusion matrix is Sephacryl S-200 HP.